NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Redemption of Soft Landing on Mars

For the first time in more than 30 years, a successful propulsive descent landing was achieved on Mars May 25th. The Phoenix Lander touched down above the arctic circle and completed its full mission success criteria before the end of the prime mission, and then continued to operate until the eventual demise as the sun sets in the northern hemisphere. The Phoenix Project inherited both the hardware from the Mars 2001 Lander, and the Entry Descent and Landing (EDL) architecture from the lost Mars Polar Lander mission. This presentation will highlight how the Project team organized and executed an extensive test program to uncover flaws in the EDL design undetected by the various failure review boards. The teaming arrangements achieved, coupled with the dedication of all parties resulted in an extremely effective program which culminated with a near flawless landing north of the arctic circle on Mars, on May 25, 2008.

Barry Goldstein
Project Manager, Phoenix Project
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Mr. Goldstein has worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for over 26 years completing many assignments as a development engineer and multiple management assignments. He is currently the Project Manager for the successful Phoenix Mars Lander, which achieved the first successful landing in the polar region of the red planet.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Goldstein was the Deputy Spacecraft Manager for the Mars Exploration Rovers.